

SPEECHES FROM THE CONFERENCE FOR WORLD PEACE



THE PEOPLE WANT PEACE

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Above: The Dean of Canterbury addressing the Conference.

Below: Cable of greetings from Henry Wallace.

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TO THE VERY REVEREND THE
DEAN OF CANTERBURY CARE NATL
PEACE CONFERENCE FRIENDS MEETING
HOUSE LONDON 119 CX

DELIGHTED TO LEARN HOW VIGOROUSLY PEACE ORGANIZATIONS OF
BRITAIN ARE JOINING TOGETHER PLEASE EXPRESS MY REGARDS TO
CONFERENCE AND MY HOPE THAT PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN ENGLAND WILL
BE AROUSED IN BEHALF OF ABIDING PEACE

HENRY A WALLACE.

* The time of sending in of this telegram, if shown, is the LOCAL STANDARD TIME of the place at which the telegram is sent. (R17) only the date of filing is shown.

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'LET US TALK PEACE'

Editorial Article from the 'Daily Worker,' July 20th, 1948

THE great Peace Conference called by the Daily Worker was largely boycotted by the Press and B.B.C. This is, indeed, an example of how the freedom of the Press (Fleet Street model) works in the selection and suppression of news.

The smallest items from Berlin make headlines. The story of a British official who was detained in Germany by the Russians for three days gets a front page column. But the greatest mass peace conference ever held in Britain gets hardly a mention.

This is yet another example of the obstacles placed in the way of peace propaganda by those who control the channels of information. It must be answered by an intensified effort to gain widespread publicity for the conference views.

BUT the extent of the boycott can be regarded as a measure of the significance and success of the conference.

If there was ever a conference which called for headlines it was this one; if there was ever a conference which expressed the simple desire of the ordinary man and woman for peace it was this one.

The peace lovers who were gathered there now have one main task before them. It is to popularise the conference, to report back to the organisations which sent delegates, to organise activities (meetings, petitions, etc.) and to talk peace, not part of the time but the whole of the time. To talk peace, in fact, even more vociferously than the capitalist Press is talking war.

Everything is in our favour for talking peace. This conference could not have been held at a more decisive moment from the standpoint of the intense interest of the nation. Millions of men and women are distraught and anxious because of the war talk. We must drown this war talk with peace talk; we must imbue the whole people with a consciousness of their own power to prevent a new world war.

AT the conference it was agreed that the Editorial Board of the Daily Worker should consult with the National Peace Council and other organisations with the view to co-operation in the carrying on of a consistent peace campaign.

It was also agreed that November 14, the first Sunday after Armistice Day, should be commemorated as a Peace Sunday on which united mass demonstrations should be held.

Another decision of considerable importance was that the Editorial Board should re-convene the conference in the event of a grave emergency arising.

These are the matters to which all of us should now turn our hands. What to do next? This is always the question which arises after a conference has met and has expressed its views. We know what to do and our job lies clearly before us. It is to talk peace, to organise for peace in the dozen and one practical ways suggested. Let us all get on with that job.

A Declaration

NO resolutions were passed at the conferences, but in London the chairman, William Rust, closed the proceedings with the following declaration, representing the opinions expressed in delegates' speeches:

"The conference declares its faith in the power of the people to maintain peace.

"We call on the people everywhere to devote their energies to the achievement of

1. Abolition of the atom bomb and reduction of armaments.
2. The strengthening of the unity and authority of the United Nations.
3. The establishment of a united democratic Germany.
4. Development of economic and cultural relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe.

"Finally, we solemnly pledge ourselves to work earnestly in our organisations and among our fellow citizens for the achievement of these aims and for the enrolment of millions of persons in the greatest peace campaign this country has ever known."

This was received with loud applause.

WORLD PEACE

A report of the great Peace Conference organised by the Daily Worker in London on July 17th, 1948

A NATIONAL movement which will be a formidable weapon against any possibility of war was initiated when the Daily Worker sponsored two great peace conferences, in London and Glasgow, during July, 1948.

The Scottish conference, on July 3, was attended by 601 delegates, of whom 379 were from trade union branches. The London gathering, on July 17, drew 1,054 delegates representing 3,449,000 people. The two conferences, in fact, covered almost every section of the British population.

This pamphlet endeavours to express, in abbreviated form, something of the opinions that were put before the conference.

William Rust, editor of the Daily Worker and chairman of the London conference, read messages of greetings from Henry Wallace, progressive candidate in the American presidential elections, and the conference began with a speech by the **Dean of Canterbury**.

The Dean said there was no defence against the atom bomb, and Britain, standing between the only two possible antagonists in a war, would be the first to suffer.

"There is tension, immense and growing, throughout the world," he continued. "Who is at the heart of the tension of the world?"

"Many would tell you that it is the Russians: 'They are so difficult to get on with. They have such a persecution complex. They are thinking in terms of power politics and the like. They wanted an alliance with Hitler. They cannot be trusted.'

"But Mr. Wallace has said that for every abusive lie against the West by Russia, there are 1,000 abusive lies against Russia by the United States.

"As for war talk, it was beginning in the United States when I was there two years ago; now it has reached a crescendo; it has invaded this island and people here are talking in terms of war

"But one of the most distinguished American journalists in Moscow says that in mixing with the Russians, 'I never heard talk of war. There is talk of industrial progress, or recovery from destruction, of advance into the future, but not of war.'

"Russia sees the U.S. beginning to produce the largest army, navy and air force that history has known; she sees 434 U.S. aeroplane bases round the world encircling the Soviet Union; she sees America making an effort to get a uniform army equipment with Britain, South Africa, Persia and Turkey.



The Very Rev. Dr. Hewlett
Johnson, Dean of Canterbury



Dr. Alex Wood, Chairman of
the National Peace Council

"Then she sees America trying to introduce peace-time conscription and spending huge resources on war preparations.

"She may well feel that all this mighty effort is directed against her, and that this is one of the causes of international tension. I bring this out for consideration today."

Britain's Chance

The Dean referred to the negotiations between Moscow and Washington after the memorandum presented by General Bedell Smith to Mr. Molotov last May, and to the proposals made by Henry Wallace. This was a great opportunity for Britain to step in as a peacemaker, but it had been allowed to pass.

"That moment has gone, but another moment has come. There is the inter-change of notes about Berlin. Both sides are tough, but Russia in her last note gives another opportunity for discussion on a Four Power basis, and Britain has the chance to say 'yes.'

"What is at stake? The peace of the world; the security of mankind. Any questions of prestige should not enter here. The greatest prestige for a nation is to be a peace-maker.

"In the outlawing of the atom bomb the scientists have led the way. Churches have very slowly followed—hardly any in this country, but they have in the United States. We must all work together for the outlawry of the atom bomb.

"Secondly, we must work for trade negotiations with the Soviet Union.

"Seven million tons of wheat is being received in this country, but is Russia receiving our goods in return? What better country could there be for Britain to trade with? Industrially and agriculturally, there has been the most tremendous progress in the Soviet Union after the most terrible destruction during the war. Here is a nation that wants to trade with us, and that, by the nature of its economic plan, knows where it stands."

The Alternatives

The Dean referred to the outpouring of books hostile to the Soviet Union, and asked why the other side was so frequently suppressed. Why, for instance, was it impossible for him to get his articles published in the general Press or to speak on the wireless, though he had travelled all through the Balkans, the Soviet Union and China in a way that no other churchman had?

"One of the greatest gifts that science has given to the world is the mastery of atomic energy," he continued.

"It can save innumerable lives; it can lead to an increase of food supplies; it can take the burdens off our backs and set us free for really living, real, cultural, associative living.

"With the resources of the world taken off war production, poverty can be abolished and most of the ills from which the world is suffering today can be totally removed.

"That is one alternative. The other is suicide. Which are we going to choose? Let this conference speak in no uncertain voice for peace and prosperity."

Frightening

The second of the two main opening speeches was by **Dr. Alex Wood** (chairman of the National Peace Council), who said the position of the Council was that war, as a solution, had to be ruled out from the beginning.

"It has been my lot to spend the whole of my working life in the laboratory where the fundamental discoveries that led to the atom bomb were made," he continued, "and there are some things about atomic energy that terrify me, in addition to those the Dean has spoken about. It is not the destruction of human life on a vast scale. After all, death is one of the commonplaces of our experience.

"But what seems to me so dreadful is the way that men can be made the instruments of the destruction of their fellow men. If you had said to one of the scientists engaged on the atom bomb that 'what we want you to do is to take part in the atomic massacre of men, women and children; we want it to include the massacre of doctors, the destruction of the fire stations and the ambulances,' I am sure not one of them would have signed on for that work.

"And yet by the work they did they made themselves as responsible for what happened as if they had done it with their own hands. It is this personal responsibility that seems to me one of the really frightening things about the recent developments in science.

Co-operation Needed

"The other thing is that it is not merely an attack on the present generation, but an attack on generations unborn. That is something new in the history of war.

"You will find in this audience people who want to base their campaign for peace on the infallibility of the Soviet Government. You will find others who are prepared to co-operate on the basis of the impeccability of the Western Powers.

"We have somehow to extend the platform so that these two groups can co-operate.

"It is time to make a complete break with the past by admitting there have been mistakes on both sides.

"I do not despair of an understanding being reached if we are prepared

to make every effort. I do not think we ought to overlook the difficulties. We must face the fact that though a great many of us sincerely admire much that the Russians have done, and have a great respect and even affection for them as a people, in many eyes they are associated with an economic system which is very different from the one we ourselves support, that they are politically organised in a way which is fundamentally different from what many people like to see.

General Principles

“We shall only come to an understanding if we take these things out and look at them, and having faced them, then make up our minds in spite of these things we will achieve an agreement which will make co-operation possible.

“It must be patent to all of you who follow the negotiations that the Russians have evidently a very constant desire always to see a particular question as part of something bigger.

“If our Russian friends are willing to start on the general principles, then they should be given the chance to come out and show what they are prepared to do in a way of a full settlement.

“It is time for somebody to go in at top level and lay down some general principles, in view of which the particular issues can be settled.

“Still, at the level of particular questions there is surely room for a good deal of co-operation, on U.N.O. and subsidiary bodies between ourselves and the Soviet Union. It is not without significance that Russia is supporting Britain on the Palestine issue. There must be other points of contact which ought to be brought out and explored.

“As the Dean has already said, there is the question of trade negotiations. My information, for what it is worth, is that in spite of what has been happening in headquarters, trade negotiations have been going on very amicably and quietly.

“If it were possible to have exchanges of visits of trade unionists, of university lecturers, of schoolteachers and scientists and so on, a great deal could be done to promote understanding between the two peoples. It is my belief at the present moment that the main obstacle to that comes from the Russian side. But what I am concerned about is that we should not sit down under difficulties of that kind. We should work on this thing, and deliberately set about bridging every gulf between the Russian people and ourselves.

Fresh Start

“Then there is the question of propaganda. Here again I say quite frankly that in my view, so far as the British Press is concerned, they certainly appear to be second in propaganda to the Russians. I think a great deal of damage is being done to our relations with the Russians by propaganda which comes across from Moscow.

“We are by no means exempt in this matter ourselves, although I do think in the last few days where there has been a word spoken out of season, the headlines in our Press have been a little less provocative than I thought they were earlier.

"Let's make a fresh start! Let us face the situation. Avoid panic on the one hand and undue complacency on the other. Let us settle to a serious job of work, using a continuous campaign to try and approach our opposite numbers, to make ourselves understood by them and to understand them.

"Recognise the fact that although in some ways our economy will always be a threat to them and their economy will always be a threat to ours, there is no reason why, respecting one another, we should not co-operate happily in a world in which we are bound to be neighbours, whether we like it or not."

Significant Connection

Mr. H. E. Newbold (Manchester and Salford Trades Council) said he was proud that the trade union movement was so well represented at the conference, for that movement must enter with all seriousness into the campaign to save the peoples of the world from another war.

They must not blind themselves to the connection between the atom bomb, atomic energy and some of the world's greatest monopolies. The possession of atomic resources was under control of that giant monopoly and capitalist combine, the General Electrical Corporation of America.

To use atomic energy at this moment for industrial purposes would mean that investments in all sections of capitalist enterprise would be threatened ; therefore everything was going into the atomic bomb.

"Speaking on behalf of the trade union movement, through my section of the movement, I hope we shall start a campaign which will rouse the people of this country, and the peoples of the rest of the world, to secure peace, and to get for the peoples of the world a life of joy and happiness."

Scottish Congress

Mrs. M. Robertson (Scottish Peace Congress) said the delegates at the conference were determined in their desire to fight for peace, and for women to take part in that struggle.

"I feel," she added, "that we should remind ourselves of the responsibility of our Government. We elected this Government on a programme of peace and progress, and we find that in every pound of the taxpayers' money, 4s. 8d. is being used for war preparations, while only 2s. 2d. goes on food."

Mr. J. Paul (National Union of Agricultural Workers) said that if they looked at the fundamental direction of the countries involved, and examined their economies, they could not fail to see that it was the U.S.S.R. that was the upholder of peace.

The demands of the agricultural workers were important not only nationally, but also for peace, for they meant a greater production of food, and that was certainly a step for peace.

Major Tufton Beamish (Conservative Member of Parliament) made a speech attacking the conference, the National Peace Council, the Balkan States and the Soviet Union. He was frequently interrupted by expressions of disapproval.



D. N. Pritt, K.C., M.P.



Mr. A. B. Lim
(Malayan Monitor)

Political Fight

Mr. D. N. Pritt, M.P., the next speaker, said Mr. Tufton Beamish could have put his point of view and could have got a good hearing, but he was deliberately provocative. It was his desire to disturb the meeting or to go away and tell other people he had been refused a hearing.

It was not possible, he continued, turning to the theme of the conference, to have political unanimity on how to fight war, but every political party should want to fight it, and it should be fought politically.

There were economic, political, social and cultural differences between the group of Socialist states on one side and the non-Socialist states on the other. But if there was to be peace, these groups must co-operate to live side by side without trying to kill each other.

The Socialists had declared over and over again that they could live together for peace and that they did not see any need for war. The attitude of the United States was that they wanted to abolish every Communist and even those who were near-Socialist. They were clamouring for war abroad and witch hunts at home and in Britain.

"It is for us," he added, "to bring pressure on the great mass of the British people, and on the British Government, to lead us away from American policy towards a policy of friendship with the Soviet Union, which it was explicitly elected to promote."

Malay Delegate

Mr. D. L. Warman (Shop Stewards Committee, Standard Motors) said there had been a unanimous decision by his committee to send two delegates to the peace conference, though the committee included men of varying parties.

Terrible devastation had been wrought in Coventry by the blitz. Ten thousand people were still without homes, and while arms expenditure was on such a wide scale, they were not likely to have homes for another ten years.

There was a basis for co-operation between the peoples of the world, and they had to make it clear that no individuals in high places who had committed themselves in one way or another and were afraid to climb down should be allowed to threaten the future of the British people.

Mr. A. B. Lim (Malayan Monitor) remarked that Mr. Tufton Beamish had spoken of "Communist terror" in Europe, but in Malaya today there was a situation equivalent to a war situation. Troops had been called up and local planters had been given the right to shoot anyone who participated in a

strike within their plantations. Today there was in Malaya a united front of all democratic organisations and they were being slandered for carrying out a struggle to prevent the re-imposition of imperial rule.

"I do not think that when we talk of peace we should merely mean pacifism," he said. "We, as colonials, think you must learn to promote peace with economic and political independence. Until the achievement of colonial peace you have not removed the basis of war. So far as Asia and China are concerned—and undoubtedly Malaya—that means the removal of all foreign troops. It means the withdrawal of foreign interests from our resources. It means giving us the right to have democracy. Only when this is achieved can we say we have removed the causes of war."

Berlin Situation

Miss Sybil Morrison (Peace Pledge Union): "Even if we have not all achieved the same economic system, there is no use in killing each other as a means of getting the same economic system.

"It is no use talking about abolishing the atom bomb; the only way to outlaw the atom bomb is to outlaw war. The only way is that we shall use common sense, no matter what our leaders have said, the world over. You will never settle ideologies and differences by killing the Russian people.

"Say to your Foreign Secretary (1) that you want to know the truth; (2) that you are absolutely determined that the way of force is not the way to peace, no matter what dispute may lie between Russia, ourselves and America."

Mr. Gordon Schaffer (British Council for Democratic Germany): "The 'cold war' has now crystallised itself in Berlin.

"I don't believe this is bluff. I don't believe the American bombers have come over here to enjoy our nice British weather. If we could get some knowledge of the facts of the Berlin situation into the minds of the people, it would not come to war.

"If our trade unionists knew, for instance, that in the factories of the Eastern Zone of Berlin the shop stewards have the right to a voice in the management of their factories, while here the Amalgamated Engineering Union is fighting for this right, what a difference it would make.

Women's Meeting

"News of the two-year plan in the Russian Zone was held back. But in the Western Zone the currency reforms are failing, there is unemployment,



Mr. Gordon Schaffer



Miss Sybil Morrison
(of the Peace Pledge Union)

the trade union movement is being split, the leaders of trade unionism are being thrown out by the Americans.

"If people knew these things they would not talk about our zone being at stake in Berlin.

"I wrote a book a year ago in which I said a Germany divided would lead to World War Three. This impossible situation in which you attempt to create two lands out of one single nation, will always keep the shade of World War Three over our heads.

"There are people talking about breaking the blockade with force. This blockade has been set up by the Russians to protect the people of Eastern Germany. If only on this question of Germany we can get the facts across to the democratic movements all over the world, then we can fight against war."

Mrs. Norah Wooster (International Women's Day Movement): "A manifesto has been published based on the points made by Mrs. Leah Manning, M.P., in the House of Commons, against war. It has been made the basis of a series of peace meetings, and 22 towns have arranged meetings. This will culminate in a great women's meeting in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, September 5. It is hoped that women will send delegations from all over the country. International Women's Day Committee will help in the organisation of a meeting wherever help is needed."

Starvation Threat

Lord St. Davids (London Western Branch, Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union): "We are living in a world in which the food supply is going down very rapidly, and in which nothing but complete international co-operation and concentration on the vital job of getting food, instead of marching about in silly armies, is necessary if we are to avoid starvation.

"It is not merely a matter of East and West agreeing to live inside their own little rabbit hutches and not disturb each other; they have to sit down and work together, or we will starve."

Mr. J. Levitsky (Hashomer Hatzair): "I speak in the first place as a Jew. Six million Jews were killed in the extermination campaign of the German fascists. If the Jewish people are to survive, we cannot face the possibility of being involved in another war.

"There is a great Jewish community in the United States and another in the Soviet Union, and they will be on opposite sides of the campaign. Worse than that, the new state of Israel will be in the midst of the conflict.

"Therefore, you may rest assured that progressive-minded Jews will work to the utmost for peace throughout the world."

Guild's Campaign

Mrs. Jean Massey (Shepherd's Bush Co-op Women's Guild): "At our annual congress in June, the Guild Movement pledged itself to a positive campaign for peace. The Guild is the biggest women's organisation in the country—62,000 members—and its support for peace is important. Everyone interested in the peace movement should be a member of the Co-operative Movement."

Miss Ann George (London Trades Council): "I bring greetings from 750,000 organised workers in London. Whoever gains in war, it is not the workers.

"Social reforms went into cold storage in 1939. We have a little progress in this country now, but that will go if we have another war.

"Why are workers being purged because they believe in peace? Some of the people who are trying to force this country into war should be told: 'If you want to go to war with the Soviet Union or anyone else, go to war, but, by God, you go alone.'"

Our Pledges

Mr. John Platts Mills, M.P.: "The scene in Berlin is nothing more than the inevitable consequence of the split in Germany.

"It is easy to forget just what we pledged ourselves to at Potsdam, but was it not the denazification of all those who supported Hitler; land reform; genuine four-power control of Germany; was it not the democratisation of German industry? Can we say we have carried out a single one of those points honestly?

"I suggest that Anglo-American policy for three years has aimed at the exclusive control of Western Germany, and the division of the country for that purpose. Having done that, is it honest to say we have a claim to hold an island in the heart of the Soviet Zone?

"In the meantime there is the beginning of the occupation of our country by a foreign power. The general leading the American bomber squadron is the general who led the force which dropped the atomic bomb on Japan. The policy of total subservience has placed us in the war camp. The honour of serving in that camp brings us the privilege of being occupied.

"It is said of those who oppose complete subjugation to America that we want no trade at all with the United States. That is not true. But it must be fair trade. What opportunity of prosperity is there if America sells us all she can but will not buy anything in return? The slogan should be co-operation with all nations, dependence on none.

500,000 Workers

"I welcome the re-opening of negotiations for Anglo-Soviet trade. An extension of that trade is the only thing that will enable our country to stand in a position in which we can bargain with the United States. Those concerned in the struggle for peace must concern themselves intimately and strongly in the fight for proper trade relations with those countries longed to trade with us.

Mr. Victor Finlayson (Midland Federation of Trades Councils): "The trade union movement in Birmingham is fighting day and night to ensure that B.S.A. stops making arms, that all factories get on to peaceful construction, and that the employers in the Midlands no longer make profits out of the war, but the workers are able to work for peace and prosperity.

"The Midland Federation represents over 500,000 workers. My generation fought in the last war, but we are not prepared to fight in another, and I know the lads in the Midlands will back a peace campaign and will fight for peaceful construction."

Disease Weapon

Professor J. B. S. Haldane (Daily Worker Editorial Board): "Let us suppose that the Soviet Union has not got any atomic bombs and that none of the American rockets misfire, as 20 per cent. of the V2.s did. What are we promised ?

"The American writers tell us one of their main weapons in the next war will be disease. Perhaps they will be of the kind that won't cause diseases of human beings. It is quite certain, however, that they have produced disease which will kill off a very large number of crop plants and probably animals, and that they propose to launch these against Europe.

"They believe these diseases would not cross the Atlantic. You can be quite sure they would cross the Channel. If we allow our country to be used as a launching ground for bacteriological warfare against Europe we are going to starve to death, and it will serve us right.

"To those who are not Communists—and I hope they are in a large majority here—I say: 'Don't leave it all to we Communists.' Launch from this meeting a united movement that will be so big that we Communists will play a negligible part in it.

"Let us fight for peace and sink our differences. You may or may not agree with all that is going on in the Soviet Union, but we do not want our country to be blown to pieces with atomic bombs or starved by disease because we allow it to be used as a base for war.

"If we can unite, as I believe we can, we can make this meeting the start of a movement that will shake the country. But we have not long to do it."

Press Untruths

Mr. J. Marsh (Common Wealth Party): "If you want to achieve peace in Europe, one way to do it is to have co-operation with the United States of Europe; not behind Churchill, Bevin or the Marshall Plan, but under the common plan of a Socialist federation with some real power at the top. The only way to achieve permanent peace is through Socialism and a United Congress of Europe."

Reverend Stanley Evans (British Soviet Society): "Why is it that though the overwhelming majority of the people in this country want peace, they are being dragooned step by step into war ?

"It is partly because the movement is split by bans and heresy hunts. But more than anything it is because the goodwill of millions of people in this country is being undermined by masses of misinformation. We get a spate of propaganda designed to poison relations between the common people. The British Press will not tell us the truth. We have to get the truth from our own Press, through our own channels of information. That is why papers published by the British-Soviet Society, Russia Today and others, are of such importance."

More than Talk

Mr. F. M. McGrath (Executive Council, Electrical Trades Union): "I speak on behalf of one of the most important trade unions in the country with a membership of 175,000 members.



Mr. F. M. McGrath
(Electrical Trades Union)



Rev. Stanley Evans
(British Soviet Society)

“American imperialism cannot exist for any length of time if the peoples of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are permitted to carry through their plans to give their peoples a happy life.

“Therefore this conference has to do more than just talk here. Every one of you has to get out to his trade union branch or organisation and to talk in the factories. He has to convince people that this campaign of calumny is wrong—though we do not pretend the Soviet Union is perfect. No country suffering the damage they suffered in the war can have a standard of living equal to ours at this stage. But they will have it and nobody will stop them.”

Mr. R. Palme Dutt (Communist Party): “The atom bomb makes no distinction of Liberals, Conservatives, Socialists or Communists; Christians or freethinkers. If we do not wish to be destroyed together we must fight together now in the cause of peace.

“Many of us here remember the peace ballot before the war that won 11 million signatures; if the policy of that ballot had been carried out there would have been no war. But that policy did not win because it was not backed by the organised active stand to ensure the carrying out of the policy. That is the lesson we need to learn now.”

Seven Points

He added, that to prevent war they must stop the wars now in progress. They must demand recognition for the State of Israel and for independent Jewish and Arab States in Palestine. Wherever British soldiers were being used abroad for intervention, aggression or domination, whether in Greece, the Middle East or Eastern Asia, they must be brought home for the urgent tasks of reconstruction in Britain.

The question of peace was a bread and butter question for Britain. At the end of 1948, 1,300,000 men and women would still be in the armed forces or supplying them; Britain's production gap could be solved if half of them were free for production.

“I would like to throw into the common pool some suggestions of things we should try to do from this conference,” he added.

“(1) The fullest report back to our organisations.

“(2) To assist in the organisation of similar conferences on the broadest basis all over the country.

“(3) To campaign within our organisations for the policy of the conference.



Mr. Ned Gittens
(South Wales Miners)



Mr. R. Palme Dutt
(Communist Party)

"(4) To carry resolutions for the policy of the conference, send these resolutions to the Prime Minister and Mr. Bevin and our local Members of Parliament. Let us take up that point that was made in one of the contributions and attack war propaganda in the Press and radio.

"(5) To have a national petition for peace.

"(6) To assist all those interested in this work, and those organisations who want peace, for example, National Peace Council, United Nations Association, International Women's Day, Peace Campaign Rally, and so on.

"(7) Most important of all, to realise that the Labour Movement in this country has a decisive role to play in the fight for peace.

"Let us take back the report to the workers, for with them the decision lies. Whatever warmongers may think, it rests with the workers to fight wars, for there is no war without munitions and armies."

U.S. Crisis

Mr. Ned Gittens (Executive Council, South Wales Miners): "In 1926 the miners fought a long and bitter struggle of eight months' duration, when only coppers and shillings were coming in. The Soviet Union was only nine years old, but they sent over one million pounds to help us.

"It is newspaper owners like the Kemsleys who are responsible for poisoning the minds of the people of this country. But I declare, that as far as the miners are concerned, they will rally in the interests of peace."

Mr. Bert Papworth (Editorial Board, Daily Worker): "Every effort is now being made to destroy the World Federation of Trade Unions, which could be the greatest international bulwark of progressive people in the cause of peace. If the World Federation goes, that is a step to war.

"That is why I want to impress on every trade unionist that he must press for the material of the Federation to be read at his branch meetings so that members can understand the work that is being done. It is important to see that this effort at destruction is defeated by the workers themselves."

Mr. D. Gardner (1/282 Branch, Transport and General Workers' Union): "America, the greatest capitalist country, has a crisis of production. The people there cannot utilise the goods they are pouring out. The workers cannot buy the goods, but they cannot be paid more money because that would destroy profits. So the capitalists try to overcome their difficulties by finding new markets for investment. And they see the Soviet Union wide open for investment; they really think they can step in and take it. We have to do something to stop this."

Young People

Mr. S. Lonsdale (Young Communist League) : "Young people in Britain and all over the world stand for peace.

"I come from a building job, and the young people in that industry are very perturbed about their future ; there will be 164,000 people directed out of that industry. It would really give me the greatest pleasure in the world to get down to the job of building houses for the people. We have really to see the connection between the fight for peace and Britain's economic situation, and seeing this we can fight in a practical way to ensure that we have peace."

Miss B. Harrison (Tobacco Workers' Union) : "No one in this conference has said very much about the American workers for peace. There are two unions representing the tobacco workers ; the one affiliated to the C.I.O. is backing Henry Wallace in the presidential elections.

"I suggest that delegates from trade unions here should insist that their unions bring to this country delegates from different parts of the world who can tell us what is happening in their countries."

Mr. J. T. Hind (Society of Litho Artists) : "The essential part that we as trade unionists can play is to start inside our own branches, sending forward messages to the various federations."

Peace Day

Mr. Angus (International Brigade Association) : "The U.S. Army Air Force has arrived in Lincolnshire, but that situation has existed in Spain for the past year. Airfields have been built and are being built close to the French frontier. The airport of Madrid is being enlarged to handle 100 planes an hour, and no civil airport needs to handle 100 planes an hour. This work is being carried out by U.S. Army Air Force technicians.

"Fascism is a breeding ground that can exist only because of the support it receives from the U.S. and this country. If every delegate goes back to his organisation prepared to demand that support shall be withdrawn from Franco, this conference will have been worth while."

Mr. Rust, concluding the conference, said it was the intention of the Daily Worker Editorial Board to arrange a discussion with the National Peace Council on what steps could be taken in an organised way to carry through the general opinions expressed at the conference, and they hoped that as a result of that discussion it would be possible to draw in other peace organisations for a general peace campaign.

They also suggested that November 14 should be a Peace Sunday—the first Sunday after Armistice Day.

"Further, they would like it to be approved that in the event of there being a really serious turn in the international situation requiring quick action by the peace forces, then the Editorial Board should be empowered to recall this conference. (Delegates indicated approval by applause.)

The Scottish Conference

Held at the McLellan Galleries, Glasgow
on July 3rd, 1948

THE Scottish conference was opened by **Mr. George Middleton**, chairman of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, who presided.

Mr. Middleton said there were some people who believed there was no immediate danger of war, but events in Berlin had shown that the situation was grave.

He was sure that the millions who had fought in the Services and worked in the factories against Hitler, did not fight to preserve either the traditional Britain or the traditional foreign policy.

Speaking on behalf of 1,300 Dundee railwaymen, **Mr. Williamson (National Union of Railwaymen)** regretted the speech of Air Vice-Marshal Walmsley, naming Russia as the potential enemy, and the speeches of General Robertson and Mr. Bevin on Berlin.

William Gallacher, M.P., was enthusiastically greeted by the conference for his stand against war.

Mr. Gallacher said that in the event of another war this country would go down never to get up again. But the big multi-millionaires of America were not interested in this country. Men and women in the Labour Movement should understand that our leaders today were not Bevin and Attlee, but Truman, Marshall and Vandenburg.

Miss Cossar (International Women's Day Committee), urging mothers everywhere to support organisations that help to promote peace, said, "I don't want to see my son or any other mother's son taking part in another war."

Rev. J. Cosgrove (Church of Scotland, Rothesay) said he could not say he was representing the Church, but he was proud to associate himself with anything that was done in the cause of peace.

Mr. Stewart (Glencraig, National Union of Mineworkers) : "I want war against the slums the miners have to live in ; against the terrible health conditions in the Gorbals, and I want peace to enable us to get rid of these things."

One out of every five young people between 14 and 25 were in the Forces, costing £750 million a year, said **Mr. Pearson (Glasgow Committee, Young Communist League)**.

Mr. Lauchlan (Scottish Committee, Communist Party) said the desire of the conference for peace was unanimous, but he warned them that millions who desired peace might be led into war if they failed to organise the forces for peace.

Mrs. Helen Crawford Anderson, leader of the women's peace crusade after the first world war, closed the conference. She urged the delegates to throw down the barriers dividing the workers in the trade unions and the co-operatives, and to rouse the people against warmongers.

THEY REPRESENTED MILLIONS

NO fewer than 1,300 delegates
the London conference

Circumstances prevented
to the Credentials Commission
but the credentials report
People's Press Printing Society
668 organisations with a total

National executive committee
delegates :

Electrical

Civil Service

Amalgamated

Fire Brigades

Tobacco Workers

United Rubber

Lightermen

Society of

Shop Stewards

National

Peace League

Socialist

Construction

International

Communist

Young Communist

There were 31 trade
branches from virtually
union movement sent
powerful bodies as the
Trades Council and the

Other delegates came
Labour Parties, women
societies affiliated to
miscellaneous bodies.

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THEY REPRESENTED MILLIONS

NO fewer than 1,300 delegates from 725 organisations were appointed to the London conference.

Circumstances prevented some of the delegates from handing in details to the Credentials Committee in time for a complete analysis to be given, but the credentials report, given by Pat Devine, National Organiser of the People's Press Printing Society, was based on 1,054 delegates representing 668 organisations with a total membership of 3,448,889.

National executive committees of the following organisations sent delegates :

- Electrical Trades Union.
- Civil Service Clerical Association.
- Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers.
- * Fire Brigades Union.
- Tobacco Workers' Union.
- United Rubber Workers of Gt. Britain.
- Lightermen and Bargemen.
- Society of Litho Artists.
- Shop Stewards' National Council.
- National Peace Council.
- Peace Pledge Union.
- Socialist Medical Association.
- Constructional Engineering Union.
- International Brigade Association.
- Communist Party.
- Young Communist League.

There were 31 trade union district committees and 394 trade union branches from virtually every union in the country. In addition, the trade union movement sent representatives from 65 trades councils, including such powerful bodies as the London Trades Council, Manchester and Salford Trades Council and the Midlands Federation of Trades Councils.

Other delegates came from 53 Co-operative organisations and from Labour Parties, women's organisations, British-Soviet Society branches, societies affiliated to the Peace Pledge Union, and a large number of miscellaneous bodies.

The People's Press

IN September, 1945, a Co-operative Society was formed—the People's Press Printing Society—with the object of financing the post-war expansion of the Daily Worker.

The Co-operative form of enterprise was chosen in order to maintain democratic control of the paper by the people.

Anybody can have a share—so can organisations. The minimum shareholding is £1, and this entitles you to a vote at all Society meetings, which decide the policy and administration of the paper, and makes you eligible for nomination to the Committee of Management.

The growth of the Society since 1945 has enabled the Daily Worker to buy the most up-to-date printing machinery and install it in a modern newspaper building, a stone's throw from Fleet Street.

From these new premises the new, larger-sized Daily Worker will be published on November 1.

You can become an owner of the Daily Worker by joining the Society. For details write to David Ainley, Secretary, 324, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.